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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Armenia

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its twenty-first session from 19 to 30 January 2015. The review of Armenia was held at the 8th meeting on 22 January 2015. The delegation of Armenia was headed by Ashot Hovakimian, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. At its 14th meeting, held on 27 January 2015, the Working Group adopted the report on Armenia.

2. On 13 January 2015, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Armenia: El Salvador, Indonesia and Nigeria.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Armenia:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/ARM/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/ARM/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/21/ARM/3 and A/HRC/WG.6/21/ARM/3/Corr.1).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Azerbaijan, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Armenia through the troika. The questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review (UPR).

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation affirmed the support of Armenia for the UPR process and underlined the importance of sharing best practices. He thanked all the Governments that had submitted written questions, which his delegation would address during the review.

6. The national report of Armenia outlined the key areas of reform related to human rights and the main challenges and obstacles in their implementation. The recommendations from the first cycle had received the Government's close attention. Legislative and practical measures had been adopted to implement them. Armenia had submitted a mid-term report on their implementation and was among the countries that had accepted the highest number of recommendations in the first cycle. It appreciated and stressed the interest of civil society in the process and believed that a stronger human rights system could result only from increased synergies between the State and civil society. Civil society development had commenced from the first days of independence in Armenia and it had been particularly active in the past decade. Many organizations were contributing in specialist fields and carrying out studies.

7. He described the main achievements of Armenia since the first UPR, commencing with the 2012–2016 Strategic Programme for Legal and Judicial Reforms. Its wide-ranging activities related to judicial, penitentiary and criminal legislation; the decriminalization of

some acts and reducing sentences for others; the introduction of a probation system; and reducing trial lengths.

8. Having highlighted the 2012 National Strategy on Human Rights Protection, he said that, in 2014, a related plan of action had been approved and a working group had been established to coordinate its implementation. Thematic plans had been approved in many fields.

9. The Commission on Constitutional Reforms of Armenia had been formed in 2013 and the Council on Women's Issues had been reorganized into a national mechanism for the implementation of the gender equality policy in 2014. The Law on ensuring equal rights for women and men had been adopted in 2013 and the development of the relevant policy for its monitoring and effective implementation was in process.

10. The Office of the Ombudsman in Armenia had been confirmed as having "A" status in 2013 and the Government had increased its budget every year, thus guaranteeing the operation of its Rapid Response Service and regional offices. Armenia had signed or ratified a number of international instruments during the review period, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED) and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW). Ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) might be possible when the relevant issues had been addressed in the constitutional reform process.

11. The Armenian Ombudsman had been assigned the task of setting up the national preventive mechanism in compliance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT). Since 2012, civil society representatives had been also been involved in the Council for the Prevention of Torture, and collaboration with the police had resolved some specific issues. Amendments to the Criminal Code had been submitted for approval to bring national legislation criminalizing torture into conformity with article 1 of the Convention against Torture.

12. The Law on public service had been adopted in 2011. The quality of democracy was predicated on the scale of women's civic and political participation and their involvement in decision-making. Article 108.2 of the Electoral Code represented an improvement to gender balance requirements, in particular as it established quotas for women's participation, unlike previous legislation. A working group had been established, which had studied and offered a comprehensive action plan for the implementation of recommendations presented by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe following the 2012 Parliamentary and 2013 Presidential elections.

13. Combating corruption was one of the priorities of the Government of Armenia. A number of relevant measures had been taken, including the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Strategy and action plan, and cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Council of Europe Group of States against Corruption, which had concluded that Armenia had fulfilled the 19 recommendations contained in its 2014 report. State policy also included the active participation of civil society and individuals in anti-corruption programmes.

14. The number of children in detention had fallen steadily in recent years. Armenia currently had one of the lowest numbers of detained children in the region. A strategic programme for the protection of the rights of the child for 2013–2016 and a timetable for the related measures had been approved in December 2012. The measures included drawing up strategies to combat violence against children.

15. The Government of Armenia had paid particular attention to ensuring the freedom, independence and pluralism of the media throughout the legislative reforms that had been conducted since independence, cooperating with regional organizations in the field. The development of the Internet had become one of its strategic priorities, along with legislation aimed at protecting the interests of users of electronic communications services. According to international watchdogs, Armenia was a country with a free Internet. The Criminal Code had been amended in 2010 in order to decriminalize defamation.

16. The activities of Armenia to combat trafficking in persons included public awareness campaigns and a new law adopted in 2014. Governmental, non-governmental and international organizations comprised an inter-agency working group on the issue and Armenia was active in the relevant activities of the Council of Europe.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

17. During the interactive dialogue, 70 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue can be found in section II of the present report.

18. Kyrgyzstan noted with satisfaction that Armenia had made considerable progress towards implementing its obligations made in the previous review. It mentioned the cooperation of Armenia with international organizations and commended it for a series of measures which the country had taken pertaining to the empowerment of women.

19. Latvia was pleased at the enactment of specific legislation on equality between men and women, including the National Programme Against Gender-based Violence, but remained concerned at reports of violence against women and attacks against journalists.

20. Lebanon acknowledged the efforts of Armenia in developing constitutional mechanisms to enhance the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in combating human trafficking and in protecting national minorities and multiculturalism.

21. Lithuania welcomed the National Programme for the Protection of the Rights of the Child. It stated that, despite a relatively strong policy framework, gender inequality persisted. Lithuania noted that cases of violence against human rights defenders and journalists were still being reported.

22. Malaysia commended Armenia for its extensive efforts in promoting gender equality and in combating gender violence. It also recognized the achievements made in promoting the right to education and the employment of persons with disabilities.

23. Mauritania welcomed the adoption of the 2011 Law on Freedom of Assemblies and the 2013 Law on Equality of Opportunities for Women and Men, and of the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in 2013. Mauritania also noted efforts regarding women, children's rights and education.

24. Mexico recognized the efforts of Armenia on migration, especially the signing of ICRMW, and the enactment of laws on equal opportunities between men and women, and on freedom of assembly.

25. Montenegro asked if Armenia had implemented a programme of education and awareness-raising on international human rights instruments and the country's related obligations, and expressed concern at legislation on discrimination.

26. Morocco welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights and the ratification of ICPPED and CRPD.

27. Namibia commended the adoption of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Human Rights, and of legislation on equal opportunities between women and men.

28. The Netherlands welcomed the cooperation of Armenia with the European Union on human rights issues, and progress in alternative military service. The Netherlands expressed concern at acts of violence against human rights defenders and hate speech by government officials and police officers against religious, ethnic and sexual minorities.

29. Norway welcomed the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Human Rights and underlined the need for broad participation from civil society in its implementation. It was concerned about reports of discrimination against vulnerable groups, including HIV-sufferers.

30. The Philippines recognized the efforts of Armenia to combat trafficking in persons and welcomed its electoral reform aimed at increasing women's representation in the legislature, as well as its ratification of international instruments. It was concerned about allegations that judicial independence remained weak.

31. Poland thanked Armenia for its participation in the UPR process and mentioned the importance it attached to the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association. It acknowledged the efforts of Armenia in the legislative framework on the rights of the child.

32. Portugal welcomed the submission of a mid-term report in 2013, and the ratification of ICPPED and CRPD. Portugal encouraged Armenia to pursue efforts towards better protection of children's rights.

33. The Republic of Korea appreciated the ratification of ICPPED and CRPD, and efforts to improve legislation on freedom of assembly, political participation and alternative military service.

34. The Republic of Moldova welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights and thematic strategies on children's rights, human trafficking and promoting human rights education. It also noted the adoption of a law on assistance to victims of trafficking or exploitation.

35. Romania noted the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Human Rights, the ratification of CRPD and the adoption of a law on equal opportunities for men and women. It appreciated the UPR mid-term report produced in 2013. Romania was also pleased about awareness-raising efforts in schools on women's rights.

36. The Russian Federation commended Armenia for its efforts in the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Human Rights. It noted the measures taken to strengthen legislation for human rights protection, reform the judicial system and ensure equality for all.

37. Rwanda commended Armenia for the programmes put in place to combat gender-based violence, including the strategic programme 2011-2015. It also noted that Armenia had ranked third out of 191 countries in 2013 in anti-trafficking efforts.

38. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the establishment of a national human rights institution with "A" status and the passing of and implementation of various laws on gender equality, the rights of persons with disabilities and the rights of national minorities. It asked Armenia for more information on its policies to address the issue of education of children with special needs.

39. Sierra Leone urged Armenia to enforce more effectively its laws on early marriage in the case of Yezidi girls. It also called on Armenia to refrain from prosecuting asylum

seekers for illegal entry and to ensure effective access to education by members of minorities, asylum seekers and refugees.

40. Regarding its recommendations during the first cycle, Slovenia enquired whether a national preventive mechanism under OP-CAT had been established. It also noted with concern the persistence of discriminatory practices against women and the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) population.

41. Spain praised the initiative to submit spontaneously a mid-term report in 2013 on the implementations of the recommendations of the first UPR cycle, but remained concerned at the persistence of gender violence and the high incidence of violence against minority groups.

42. Sweden stated that the adoption of the Human Rights Action Plan was positive, but the Plan failed to address in full certain areas, such as women's and children's rights. It added that systemic problems persisted in respect of the right to a fair trial.

43. Armenia responded to questions relating to the justice system. The draft criminal procedure code contained a separate chapter regulating juvenile justice. Recent changes to the legislation included ensuring that the participation of a representative for a minor would be mandatory from the moment of arrest. Further details were provided on the conditions of detention of juveniles and the applicable monitoring mechanisms, which involved both the Human Rights Defender and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

44. The amendments to the Criminal Code of Armenia relating to torture ensured that all public officials who engaged in torture would be charged accordingly, with possible penalties of eight years' imprisonment and exclusion from public office or the practice of certain activities for up to three years. Armenia also mentioned the specialized Torture Investigation Department within the Special Investigation Service and an order from the Head of the Police on applying the standards of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

45. Armenia referred to the construction and future expansion in 2015 of the Armavir penitentiary in order to improve conditions and solve overcrowding in places of detention. In 2011, a government decision had established a timetable for the implementation of measures to improve medical services in penitentiaries.

46. Armenia had amended the Law on "Alternative Service" in 2013. The new provisions distinguished between "alternative military" and "alternative civilian" services, allowing those whose beliefs prevented them from carrying arms to undertake military service without doing so, or not to undertake military service at all. Measures had been taken to remedy the situation for conscientious objectors who had been prosecuted before the entry into force of that law.

47. Armenia noted that the draft criminal procedure code contained measures to define detention as an exceptional measure of restraint in addressing excessive periods of pretrial detention.

48. Armenia provided details of deaths recorded in the armed forces in 2013 and 2014 and stated that the recorded increase could be attributed to more ceasefire violations. However, there had been a reduction in the number of suicides. The Prosecutor General had been taking steps to inform the public about cases and investigations in that area and had organized discussions on the issue.

49. In relation to criminal investigations following demonstrations after the 2008 Presidential elections, Armenia agreed that, while the investigations might have seemed slow, that was not surprising, given the volume and scale of the cases and the situation. In

2014, the Prosecutor General had instructed that the case of each person who had died in the wake of the demonstrations should constitute a separate criminal case.

50. Armenia noted that decisions on extradition could not be made before completion of the procedure for granting refugee status.

51. Armenia noted that there had been many cases in which high-ranking officials had been convicted in the courts. It also noted that the acquittal rate had been increasing and, at 3.6 per cent in 2014, it was within the normal range for most States.

52. The delegation provided more details of the measures that had been taken by the police to prevent torture, including the installation of video cameras in many police stations. Police skills were being enhanced and no allegations of ill-treatment had been received in recent years in relation to custody staff in police detention facilities.

53. The police in Armenia had always worked in such a way as to allow people to enjoy their right to peaceful assembly while also ensuring public safety and protecting the rights and freedoms of others. In some cases, the use of force had been necessary, but it had been used in strict compliance with the law. Training had been organized for police officers in collaboration with international organizations on the application of legislation relating to freedom of assembly, and guidelines had been drawn up on the use of force. One of the main reforms in that regard had been the introduction of community policing.

54. Switzerland was concerned about violations of the human rights of human rights defenders, journalists and civil society representatives. It welcomed the adoption of the law on gender equality, in accordance with the recommendation it had made in 2010.

55. Tajikistan noted the achievements of the Government of Armenia in terms of human rights protection and welcomed the adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights. It further noted the efforts of Armenia to combat trafficking in human beings.

56. Thailand welcomed the new legislation adopted to combat human trafficking and on the employment of persons with disabilities. However, it expressed concern about domestic violence. It encouraged Armenia to invest more to improve its educational system.

57. Turkey was concerned about restrictions on freedom of expression on the issue of genocide and considered that the events of 1915 constituted a legitimate subject of debate. It clarified that the allegations of a blockade mentioned in the national report of Armenia were baseless.

58. The United Arab Emirates welcomed the recent measures taken to reform the Constitution, which had improved the constitutional human rights mechanisms. It asked Armenia to provide further information about Decree NH-207-N on constitutional reforms.

59. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed the progress Armenia had made since the last review, and the road map provided by the Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan. It noted the concerns raised in a report of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on the 2013 Presidential elections.

60. The United States of America commended Armenia for the improvement in respecting freedom of expression manifested in the Human Rights Defender's 2013 report, but noted that more needed to be done. It was seriously concerned about systemic corruption and the absence of an independent judiciary.

61. Uruguay underlined the efforts of Armenia to guarantee equal opportunities and non-discrimination, including steps to increase women's representation in the legislative branch, and the adoption of the National Plan for the Protection of the Rights of the Child 2013–2016.

62. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the ratification of ICPPED and CRPD, and the launch of the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in 2012 followed by the Plan of Action in 2014.

63. While appreciating the support given to the Human Rights Defender and the implementation of the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights, Albania encouraged Armenia to increase the resources allocated to all its mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

64. Algeria welcomed the adoption of the Human Rights Action Plan and the strengthening of the legal framework in the area of human rights. It encouraged Armenia to pursue the measures taken to promote the enjoyment of education and culture by national minorities.

65. Angola commended Armenia for the establishment of the 2012–2016 Strategic Programme for Legal and Judicial Reforms and welcomed the initiatives undertaken to ensure gender equality, including the drafting of the Gender Policy Strategic Programme and Action Plan.

66. Argentina welcomed the ratification of ICPPED and CRPD and noted the progress made under the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Human Rights. However, it noted that discrimination against women and LGBT persons persisted.

67. Australia requested a written update on the implementation of the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights. It welcomed the progress in implementing the Convention against Torture and the adoption of the law on gender equality. However, Australia remained concerned about gender-based discrimination and the failure to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons.

68. Austria remained concerned about the persistence of gender-based discrimination and discrimination against persons with disabilities and LGBT persons. It also expressed concern that effective enjoyment of the right to education was still not guaranteed for all children.

69. Azerbaijan rejected the references to "Nagorno-Karabakh" in the national report of Armenia, emphasizing that, according to General Assembly resolution 62/243, entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan", references to "Nagorno-Karabakh" should read as "the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan".

70. Armenia stated that the Government condemned all forms of discrimination, and the relevant national legislation included its criminalization. All the national programmes adopted by Armenia in the field of human rights were the basic components of the national anti-discrimination policy, the main goal of which was to ensure the effective implementation of relevant national legislation and the incorporation of relevant international obligations in national policies. Armenia had signed or ratified most of the United Nations and regional instruments relating to equality. It provided additional details of the plans and strategies relating to non-discrimination and highlighted relevant actions that had been taken, including the submission of its latest periodic report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the inclusion of a plan for the adoption of a separate law on discrimination within the Plan of Action for the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights.

71. Referring to some specific groups, Armenia noted that there were no restrictions on access to public services for sexual minorities. Concerned by the fact that representatives of some women's NGOs had been intimidated on social media, the Women's Council, which was chaired by the Prime Minister, had advocated an end to such behaviour and urged the law enforcement bodies to be more vigilant in the prevention and punishment of such cases. A number of legal and institutional measures had been taken to strengthen the protection of

members of national minorities since the first UPR and the budget allocated to national minorities had been doubled since 2012.

72. Armenia listed some of the measures that had been taken for members of national minorities that lacked their own kin state, including the publishing and provision of free school textbooks in their languages. The incorporation of those minorities was seen as a cultural asset for Armenia. The preservation and development of the culture of national minorities was a priority and all historical and architectural monuments, cultural and religious buildings were under State protection, regardless of their ethnic or religious associations.

73. Armenia cooperated closely with the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance. The delegation provided details of the findings of the Commission's latest monitoring report.

74. A suitable legislative framework had been established to ensure the appropriate conditions for religious diversity. As of 2014, some 66 religious organizations were registered, of which 9 belonged to national minorities.

75. Managing migration was one of the priorities of the Government of Armenia. The 2014 action plan on migration included activities to harmonize national legislation with international standards. The 2014 amendments to the Criminal Code had made organizing illegal immigration a criminal offence. Under the new anti-trafficking law, victims of human trafficking could be granted a residence permit.

76. The asylum system was fully functional and over 16,000 refugees from Syria had arrived in recent years. A new draft law on asylum had recently been developed, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and submitted to the Government.

77. Belarus noted with satisfaction the legislative measures taken by Armenia since the first UPR. In particular, it noted legislation on gender equality. It welcomed the attention given to the most vulnerable groups in the National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights.

78. While welcoming the ratification of ICPPED and CRPD, Belgium stated that there was still a lot to do in terms of human rights, including violence against women and children and abuses committed by police forces.

79. Benin welcomed the efforts of Armenia towards the implementation of the recommendations from the first UPR and its ratification of ICPPED and CRPD.

80. Serbia applauded Armenia for the adoption of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Human Rights and considered that Armenia had taken decisive steps to combat domestic violence.

81. Brazil commended Armenia for implementing its first cycle recommendations. It was concerned about violence against women and urged Armenia to protect LGBTI persons. It underlined the importance of aligning the definition of torture with international standards, ensuring adequate resources for its national prevention mechanism, and promoting awareness-raising on HIV/AIDS.

82. Bulgaria appreciated the approval of the Strategic Programme for Legal and Judicial Reforms and the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Human Rights, and welcomed policies and programmes on gender, gender-based violence and children. It encouraged Armenia to identify children in vulnerable situations.

83. Canada enquired about the measures undertaken to implement its recommendations from 2010 on freedom of opinion and expression and investigative journalism. It welcomed

the steps taken to address racism and xenophobia and called on Armenia to investigate the recent attacks on political activists in Yerevan and bring the perpetrators to justice.

84. The Central African Republic noted the efforts of Armenia to follow up recommendations from the first cycle. It noted significant progress in the protection of persons with disabilities, freedom of assembly and equal opportunities for men and women.

85. Chad was pleased that Armenia had presented a mid-term report. It noted that Armenia had a legislative and regulative framework in place to guarantee freedom of assembly, judicial reforms, gender equality and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

86. Chile thanked Armenia for its national report and welcomed the progress made in fighting corruption and human trafficking. It urged Armenia to make greater efforts to promote compliance with international human rights instruments.

87. Costa Rica noted that Armenia had ratified human rights treaties and welcomed the establishment of the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, the Strategic Programme for Judicial Reforms and the efforts made towards gender equality. It was concerned by allegations of restrictions on the freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

88. Cuba noted the measures taken to increase gender equality and improve the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. It also noted progress in the protection of the rights of the child, in education and in health.

89. Cyprus commended Armenia for the measures it had taken to promote women's and children's rights, and the initiatives taken to raise awareness regarding the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide.

90. The Czech Republic welcomed the delegation of Armenia. It appreciated the information provided on the implementation of previous UPR recommendations.

91. Djibouti applauded the progress made in the field of economic and social rights. It appreciated the efforts made to promote and protect the rights of women by setting quotas to increase their representation within the legislature.

92. Egypt commended the establishment of a National Commission on constitutional reforms, the National Strategy and Action Plan on the Protection of Human Rights, the strengthening of the judiciary and the enhanced representation of women in parliament. It welcomed the ratification of CRPD and the signature of ICRMW.

93. Armenia referred to reforms aimed at regulating and providing stable employment, particularly for those who lacked competitive skills. A five-year strategy had been approved by the Government in 2013 and a new Law on Employment had entered into force in 2014. The new law included quotas for the employment in larger organizations of persons with disabilities, which would apply progressively from 2015. The minimum wage had been increased and would be raised further in 2015. Programmes had been created to support small businesses and women at risk of unemployment.

94. Armenia noted the submission to the National Assembly of the draft law on the rights and social inclusion of persons with disabilities. Armenia had ratified CRPD; consideration could be given to accession to the Optional Protocol thereto after reforms had been implemented.

95. Violence was punishable in law regardless of the sex of the victim; that applied to domestic violence. The draft law on domestic violence had not been enacted because major reforms were being carried out in the legal system and legislation on domestic violence would be enacted on the basis of those reforms. However, the definition of domestic

violence and provisions for support to victims had been incorporated in the Law on Social Support adopted in December 2014.

96. Armenia detailed reforms to child protection, including early prevention measures, which had been developed with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund. Mechanisms to improve adoption procedures were being prepared. Since 2010, the Government had adopted programmes for the creation of social housing for disadvantaged people, including young people who had previously lived in children's homes.

97. Turning to health issues, Armenia outlined reforms aimed at increasing access to, and increasing the quality of, health services, with an emphasis on prevention and early detection of diseases. Maternal and child health were on target to meet the relevant Millennium Development Goals. Steps had been taken to reduce the risks of corruption and do away with informal payments, including by raising public awareness of the right to free health care and dismissing staff who had demanded such payments. Work had been undertaken to address intolerance towards HIV/AIDS sufferers, including in schools.

98. Armenia disagreed with assertions that women were discriminated against in terms of access to health care: more than 30 per cent of the health budget was allocated to programmes supporting mothers and children. Armenia was one of the few countries where 15-year-old girls received a comprehensive assessment of their development and reproductive health.

99. Armenia detailed the measures the Government had taken to ensure equal access to education, especially for vulnerable groups. In 2014, the National Assembly had adopted the new Law on General Education, under which there would be a move to completely inclusive education by 2022. Inclusive education had been incorporated in 10 per cent of schools. In higher education, the Government would continue to improve access for young people from vulnerable groups. In 2014, the categories of persons eligible to receive stipends had been extended.

100. Armenia provided details of the licences issued for digital television broadcasting. Monitoring of the general elections in 2012 and municipal elections in 2013 had shown that opposition parties had received most air-time in practically all transmissions. In relation to the case of A1+ Television, Armenia had fulfilled all of the demands of the European Court of Human Rights and A1+ had returned to broadcast in 2012 in a new form.

101. Equatorial Guinea commended Armenia for its voluntary commitments. It welcomed strategies and plans of action to protect and enhance human rights, and mentioned the measures taken for persons with disabilities and to preserve and protect the popular traditions of minorities.

102. Estonia welcomed the ratification of CRPD and commended the adoption of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Human Rights. It invited Armenia to pay attention to violence against women. It highlighted its development cooperation with Armenia.

103. Finland commended Armenia for increasing the budget of the Human Rights Defender and was pleased to note that the increased budget had resulted in the continued operation of its rapid response service and some of its local offices.

104. France welcomed the progress made since the first cycle. It welcomed the adoption of a comprehensive programme for judicial reform for the period 2012–2016 and enquired about the status of the programme.

105. Germany commended Armenia for its progress in some areas, particularly trafficking in persons. It noted that the administration of the 2012 Parliamentary and 2013

Presidential elections had, on the whole, been better than in previous elections, although a number of irregularities had still been observed.

106. Greece highlighted progress in different areas, in particular in the promotion of gender equality, the fight against human trafficking and the protection of children.

107. Indonesia welcomed the development of the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Human Rights and the decision to sign ICRMW.

108. The Islamic Republic of Iran was convinced that the efforts made to address the scourges of human trafficking and domestic violence would result in better protection of the rights of women and children. It also commended Armenia for the special attention paid to the improvement of children's rights.

109. Ireland was pleased that a number of special procedures mandate holders had been invited to Armenia and that the national human rights institution had retained its "A" status. It noted that concerns had been expressed at the hindrances to the exercise of the right to freedom of assembly and expression.

110. Italy welcomed the ratification of numerous human rights instruments and the measures taken to promote women's rights and gender equality. It encouraged Armenia to ensure that civil society organizations were consulted effectively on reform proposals that might affect their activities.

111. Kazakhstan welcomed the ratification of ICPPED and CRPD and noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the fight against human trafficking and measures taken towards better gender equality.

112. Noting the efforts undertaken in the fields of education and the fight against human trafficking, Kuwait called on Armenia to continue its efforts in those areas. It also welcomed the ratification of ICPPED and CRPD.

113. China appreciated the efforts of Armenia to combat violence against women and human trafficking, to protect the rights of people with disabilities, to develop education and culture for minorities, to ensure children's welfare and to realize the right to education for children with special needs.

114. In his closing remarks, the Head of the Delegation of Armenia highlighted the country's priority in protecting the rights of racial, religious, ethnic and national minorities. Most essential was the right to life of those groups, as protected in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Resolute, timely acknowledgement, absolute rejection and condemnation, assessment and monitoring could prevent genocide. Therefore the issue of the prevention of genocide had specific importance for Armenia. Armenia had initiated resolutions related to the Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The most recent, resolution 22/22, had been adopted by consensus at the twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council.

115. Armenia considered that the duty of memory and remembrance empowered by the realization of the right to the truth was an important dimension of genocide prevention. Armenia underlined that denying, trivializing, condoning or justifying past genocides infringed upon the human rights of victims of genocide. He regretted the fact that the Turkish delegation had used the opportunity for dialogue with Armenia to reaffirm its policy of denial.

116. Armenia disagreed with the approach of establishing equivalence between the victim and the perpetrator and called upon Turkey to face its own history, thus relieving the next generations of the heavy burden of the past.

117. Armenia valued the protection and promotion of political, social and cultural rights. Armenia outlined the value it attached to the United Nations human rights instruments and the empowerment of people with the right to self-determination. The violent suppression of that right had been the cause of many conflicts and its realization was essential for conflict resolution. Armenia has been supporting the right of peoples to self-determination, particularly in cases in which peoples' physical survival was at stake. It would continue that support, including in the framework of negotiations under the auspices of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, recalling that all OSCE members had accepted that the right of peoples to self-determination should be among the key principles of conflict resolution in the OSCE 2009 Ministerial Council statement.

118. Armenia had always believed that the UPR could strengthen cooperation and avoid confrontations. While it was true that, to a certain extent, conflicts could impede the realization of certain human rights, it was also true that improvements to human rights protection could contribute to conflict resolution. Armenia had never tried to justify setbacks by invoking conflict situations. It recalled that it had accepted a large number of recommendations at the first UPR from one particular neighbouring State, but that goodwill had not been appreciated and at the second UPR, the same State had rejected its recommendations. Armenia reminded the meeting that the national report was its own and it naturally expressed the Government's official position on each issue, including on historic issues and geographical names.

119. Armenia demonstrated its readiness to engage in human rights cooperation with all countries, highly valuing the UPR. Armenia thanked the Member States for their encouragement, constructive and useful dialogue and recommendations. Armenia would incorporate the outcome of the review into the systematic protection of human rights in the country.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

120. **The following recommendations will be examined by Armenia, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 29th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2015:**

120.1. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Costa Rica) (Turkey);**

120.2. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);**

120.3. **Accede to Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Estonia);**

120.4. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and adopt all the required internal legislative measures to proceed as soon as possible with the ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC (Italy);**

120.5. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and accept its mechanisms of inquiry and communications (Uruguay);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited

120.6. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Portugal);**

120.7. **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) (Kyrgyzstan);**

120.8. **Speed up the process underway to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants Workers and Members of Their Families (Rwanda);**

120.9. **Step up its efforts to ratify ICRMW (Philippines);**

120.10. **Continue the procedure of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Central African Republic);**

120.11. **Continue and speed up the process of ratification of ICRMW (Indonesia);**

120.12. **Consider expediting the process of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their families (Egypt);**

120.13. **Ratify ICRMW and accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Sierra Leone);**

120.14. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (OP-CRPD) (Benin);**

120.15. **Consider expediting the ratification of OP-CRPD and the Rome Statute of the ICC (Republic of Korea);**

120.16. **Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), including by incorporating provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the ICC (Montenegro);**

120.17. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, signed in 1999, and apply it in the national legislation (Uruguay);**

120.18. **Take action with a view to bringing to an end the ratification procedures for the Rome Statute of the ICC (Romania);**

120.19. **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Poland) (Slovenia) (Austria) (Benin) (Costa Rica);**

120.20. **Ratify the Statute of the International Criminal Court (Chile);**

120.21. **Ratify and fully align its national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Latvia);**

120.22. **Ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Bulgaria) (Estonia);**

120.23. **Consider ratifying International Labour Organization Convention No. 189 (Philippines);**

120.24. **Strengthen legislation on violence against women and domestic violence by adopting the draft law on the subject and by acceding to the Istanbul Convention (Turkey);**

120.25. **Accede rapidly to the Istanbul Convention and adopt and implement as soon as possible a national strategy to prevent and punish all forms of violence against children, including child trafficking (Belgium);**

120.26. **Take appropriate action to prosecute cases of domestic violence and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Italy);**

120.27. **Pay particular attention to the process of judicial and legal reform by strengthening the legal framework (Tajikistan);**

120.28. **Continue to strengthen national human rights institutions, including the independence of the judiciary (Costa Rica);**

120.29. **Allocate adequate financial resources for the Human Rights Defender and ensure the continuity of work of the regional offices (Estonia);**

120.30. **Continue strengthening the mandate of the Human Rights Defender's office and extend its work to regions not yet covered by the institution as well as fully and without delay implementing the recommendations put forward by the Human Rights Defender (Finland);**

120.31. **Actively include civil society in the implementation of the Human Rights Strategy Action Plan 2014–2016 and create a formalized dialogue with civil society to this effect, in order to provide for better monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plan (Sweden);**

120.32. **Provide all appropriate human and material resources to implement the National Action Plan that the Armenian Government adopted in February 2014 in order to achieve the rights of the vulnerable groups in the specified areas in the mentioned plan (United Arab Emirates);**

120.33. **Take all measures in further implementing its National Human Rights Action Plan, in particular by allocating sufficient funding from the national budget (Indonesia);**

120.34. **Enhance the protection of the rights of the child (Lebanon);**

120.35. **Promote comprehensibly the increased protection of the rights of the child (Tajikistan);**

120.36. **Ensure better protection of the rights of the child (Greece);**

120.37. **Continue its endeavour to promote and protect the rights of the child (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

120.38. **Encourage better protection of children's rights (Kazakhstan);**

120.39. **Provide the National Programme for the Protection of the Rights of the Child for 2013–2016 with the necessary resourcing and strengthen its implementation, especially in respect of children in closed or partially-closed institutions (Lithuania);**

120.40. **Continue the realization of the right to education and the right to health for children in light of the Government's adoption of the Strategic Programme for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (2013–2016) (Russian Federation);**

120.41. **Allocate the resources necessary for the realization of the national strategies and plans for the protection of the rights of the child, including for**

the full identification and monitoring of children in situations of vulnerability and the protection of their interests (Belarus);

120.42. **Continue to promote and protect the rights of children while developing special programmes targeting vulnerable children (Djibouti);**

120.43. **Elaborate additional measures to increase awareness of human rights culture (Lebanon);**

120.44. **Build a true dialogue with civil society and engage NGOs in the decision-making process at all levels (Estonia);**

120.45. **Submit all overdue reports to the relevant treaty bodies (Sierra Leone);**

120.46. **Invite the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers to perform an official country visit (Germany);**

120.47. **Pursue actions to fight all forms of discrimination (Morocco);**

120.48. **Ensure respect for the principle of non-discrimination and adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation (Netherlands);**

120.49. **Renew its efforts and adopt and fully implement a comprehensive anti-discrimination law (Czech Republic);**

120.50. **Adopt stand-alone legislation to combat discrimination (Norway);**

120.51. **Adopt comprehensive legislation to fight all forms of discrimination, in particular against women (Italy);**

120.52. **Adopt and effectively implement legislation to ensure equal treatment of persons with disabilities in accordance with CRPD, as well as prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and provide effective protection to LGBT persons (Austria);**

120.53. **Improve the efficiency of the implementation of the Gender Equality Act, to pay special attention to domestic violence against women and adopt the necessary legislation in order to prevent violence and protect victims (Lithuania);**

120.54. **Enact independent legislation focused specifically on combating discrimination, in particular for gender (Mexico);**

120.55. **Adopt comprehensive legislation to counter discrimination and take steps to ensure that equality enshrined in such legislation or in existing law is achieved in practice (Ireland);**

120.56. **Introduce comprehensive legislation on discrimination and equality of men and women (Poland);**

120.57. **Continue to ensure that adequate human and financial resources are allocated to implement laws and policies that address inequality between men and women (Philippines);**

120.58. **Continue efforts for the strengthening of equality between men and women, combating trafficking in human beings and the protection of the rights of national minorities (Russian Federation);**

120.59. **Step up the application of the existing legislation on gender equality (Spain);**

120.60. **Invest more resources in the implementation of law on gender equality and for gender equality in the labour market (Switzerland);**

120.61. **Strengthen measures to reduce gender inequality (Algeria);**

120.62. **Further strengthen efforts towards a better promotion of gender equality (Kazakhstan);**

120.63. **Employ legislative mechanisms to secure gender equality and the legal protection of women from discrimination (Tajikistan);**

120.64. **Elaborate a gender-sensitive approach in the programmes and policies which address human rights discrimination and take the necessary actions to raise awareness on attitudes and stereotypes targeting women and sexual minorities in society (Albania);**

120.65. **Continue its efforts to achieve gender equality (Cuba);**

120.66. **Double its efforts in addressing the persistent gender discrimination (Rwanda);**

120.67. **Strengthen efforts towards promotion of gender equality (Greece);**

120.68. **Strengthen the implementation of measures aimed at promoting and safeguarding gender equality (Cyprus);**

120.69. **Further increase efforts, including through legislative measures, to end discrimination against women (Austria);**

120.70. **Implement tangible measures against discrimination of women, including the adoption of legislation to promote gender balance and steps to strengthen the position of the Ombudsman office on gender equality (Germany);**

120.71. **Consider developing, in the context of the promotion of gender equality, human rights indicators, as suggested by OHCHR as an instrument that allows for a more precise and coherent evaluation of national human rights policies (Portugal);**

120.72. **Develop and adopt suitable legislative and administrative measures to combat discrimination against women, and discrimination and violence against LGBTI persons (Argentina);**

120.73. **Promote the rights of women and effectively combat all forms of violence against women and against prenatal selection (France);**

120.74. **Attach importance to employment for women in the process of gender equality promotion (China);**

120.75. **Continue its efforts aimed at enhancing gender equality and improving the means to protect the rights of national minorities (Kuwait);**

120.76. **Adopt a National Action Plan on Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (Portugal);**

120.77. **Further strengthen its efforts in the areas of equality between women and men, eradicating violence against women, and promoting rights of the child (Egypt);**

120.78. **Take suitable action to address discriminatory practices in the engagement with national minorities and, in particular, the double discrimination faced by women from such minority groups (Namibia);**

120.79. **Prosecute and monitor cases of incitement to racial discrimination and racist propaganda (Sierra Leone);**

120.80. **Provide effective protection of LGBT persons from discrimination (Slovenia);**

120.81. **Combat all forms of discrimination, including those relating to sexual orientation and identity (France);**

120.82. **Enact specific legislation that prohibits discrimination against persons based on sexual orientation (Canada);**

120.83. **Adopt effective measures to ensure the eradication of all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);**

120.84. **Combat hate propaganda and incitement against minority groups, especially LGBTI persons, religious minorities, AIDS patients and persons with disabilities through the adoption of a comprehensive package of laws and effective mechanisms to combat discrimination, including in the public administration (Spain);**

120.85. **Take appropriate measures to guarantee that lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and intersex persons are not subjected to discrimination, both in law and in practice (Uruguay);**

120.86. **Ensure appropriate training is provided to officials, and that law enforcement authorities carry out thorough and prompt investigations regarding attacks on LGBTI persons (Australia);**

120.87. **Continue concerted efforts at the international level for the prevention of genocide (Cyprus);**

120.88. **Continue concerted efforts at the international level for the prevention of the crime of genocide (Greece);**

120.89. **Continue to improve its comprehensive framework by introducing the definition of "torture" in compliance with article 1 of the Convention against Torture (Serbia);**

120.90. **Ensure that the definition of torture in national law is fully in line with the Convention against Torture (Germany);**

120.91. **Provide criminal liability for torture in line with article 1 of the Convention against Torture (Turkey);**

120.92. **Encourage the National Assembly to pass legislation that would enable Armenia to more fully comply with its international human rights obligations, including expanding the definition of torture in its domestic law to include crimes committed by public officials in their official capacities, and criminalizing domestic violence (United States of America);**

120.93. **Amend Armenia's Criminal Code to ensure it is consistent with the definition in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, particularly the inclusion of acts committed by public officials (Australia);**

120.94. **Establish a system for the management of complaints of torture and ill-treatment by police and security forces to ensure that such acts, committed against civilians or prisoners, are effectively investigated and sanctioned (Belgium);**

120.95. **Take steps to ensure that allegations of ill-treatment of persons detained by the security and police forces are fully investigated and that perpetrators are held accountable (Canada);**

120.96. **Combat torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment and ensure that these acts do not go unpunished (France);**

120.97. **Take measures to ensure that the national mechanism for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment is provided with sufficient resources to operate effectively (Mexico);**

120.98. **Effectively implement legal amendments in order to guarantee the rights of persons deprived of liberty, particularly in places of detention (Albania);**

120.99. **Continue the national strategy for combating violence against women (Angola);**

120.100. **Take the legal steps necessary to protect women against domestic violence (Switzerland);**

120.101. **Intensify efforts to address violence against women, in particular domestic violence (Latvia);**

120.102. **Implement comprehensive legislation to effectively combat the widespread cases of violence against women and offer further protection to victims of domestic violence (Sierra Leone);**

120.103. **Adopt legislation to prohibit and combat domestic violence (Brazil);**

120.104. **Continue efforts to combat domestic violence, also by the adoption of a distinct law on this topic (Romania);**

120.105. **Adopt stand-alone legislation on domestic violence and set up a specialized referral system for victims of domestic abuse, wherein violence will be qualified as a criminal and civil offence subject to prosecution and punishment (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

120.106. **Adopt a stand-alone law to combat domestic violence, so that violence against women will be qualified as a criminal and civil offence subject to prosecution (Norway);**

120.107. **Adopt comprehensive legislation to combat domestic and gender-based violence (Slovenia);**

120.108. **Take up the processing and approval of the draft law on gender violence, with a view to providing victims with mechanisms for protection and effective reparation (Spain);**

120.109. **Adopt without delay national legislation on domestic violence and create public institutions that offer assistance and protection for victims of domestic violence (Germany);**

120.110. **Take concrete measures to combat violence against women and children as well as expedite the adoption of the draft law on domestic violence that would allow victims to file complaints and seek protection (Thailand);**

120.111. **Strengthen protection of women's rights, particularly by adopting legal measures to prohibit gender-based and domestic violence against women and girls (Albania);**

120.112. **Develop a stand-alone law on domestic violence, where gender-based violence will be qualified as a criminal offence subject to prosecution (Serbia);**

120.113. **Enhance the fight against domestic and gender-based violence, strengthen protection mechanisms for victims of domestic violence and adopt a comprehensive domestic violence law putting in place effective prevention and protection mechanisms (Czech Republic);**

120.114. **Put forward extensive efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, including enforcement of the age of marriage set out in law as well as the development of comprehensive awareness-raising programmes on the negative implications of early marriage (Republic of Korea);**

120.115. **Take further steps to eliminate violence against women, including through accession to relevant international instruments, the robust domestic implementation of laws, and providing gender-sensitive training to security and law enforcement agencies (Australia);**

120.116. **Develop a national strategy to prevent and address all forms of violence against children (Turkey);**

120.117. **Reform national law in order to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings and to develop an enforcement mechanism and sanctions against corporal punishment of children (Poland);**

120.118. **Amend the Criminal Code in order to criminalize the recruitment of children under the age of 18 years into armed forces and establish a mechanism to provide former child soldiers with the necessary assistance for their reintegration in society (Albania);**

120.119. **Continue the fight against human trafficking (Greece);**

120.120. **Continue effective efforts to combat trafficking in human beings (Lebanon);**

120.121. **Increase its efforts to combat human trafficking and protect victims of trafficking, especially women and children (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

120.122. **Proceed in its effective efforts to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children (Egypt);**

120.123. **Intensify efforts aiming at the comprehensive and effective implementation of national plans and strategies to fight trafficking of human beings (Morocco);**

120.124. **Continue to enhance its positive policies and programmes for trafficked victims and refugees (Philippines);**

120.125. **Ensure the provision of assistance and the accessibility of legal aid to all victims of trafficking, in line with regional and international human rights standards (Republic of Moldova);**

120.126. **Strengthen institutional integrity and accountability by fostering an independent judiciary and democratic electoral processes by working closely with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and local stakeholders (United States of America);**

120.127. **Further strengthen the independence of the judiciary from the executive (Lithuania);**

120.128. **Address corruption and further strengthen the independence of judges in order to improve public confidence in the judicial system (Netherlands);**

120.129. **Amend domestic legislation with a view to guaranteeing the independence of the judicial power and consider the establishment of an independent body for the appointment of judges (Mexico);**

120.130. **Take measures to ensure the independence of the judiciary and consider establishing an independent body responsible for the appointment and promotion of judges (Namibia);**

120.131. **Revoke the President's authority to appoint and dismiss judges (Germany);**

120.132. **Strengthen the independence of the judiciary by separating it from the executive powers, adopt a Criminal Procedure Code in compliance with international standards and address prison overcrowding and the overuse of pretrial detention (Czech Republic);**

120.133. **Enhance the independence of the justice system, particularly with the establishment of an appropriate system of training, nomination, promotion and sanctions against judges (France);**

120.134. **Work closely with the Council of Europe on judicial reform and support a system of court monitoring based on civil society participation (Sweden);**

120.135. **When human rights violations occur, hold security forces and other government officials accountable and provide appropriate remedies for victims of abuses and discrimination, including against members of vulnerable populations (United States of America);**

120.136. **Enhance efforts to protect the rights of the child and establish a system of juvenile justice in compliance with international standards (Italy);**

120.137. **Fully support the institution of the family (Russian Federation);**

120.138. **Continue providing effective protection for the family unit, as the natural and fundamental unit of the society (Egypt);**

120.139. **Guarantee the protection of the right to freedom of expression offline and online (Estonia);**

120.140. **Conduct impartial and transparent investigations of cases where freedom of expression has been restricted (Turkey);**

120.141. **Take further steps to ensure that the alleged cases of violence against journalists are thoroughly investigated (Latvia);**

120.142. **Respect and guarantee the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly of journalists, civil society activists, human rights defenders and demonstrators, as well as speedily and effectively investigating threats against them and ensuring that perpetrators are tried (Uruguay);**

120.143. **Take the necessary measures in order to stop human rights abuses against journalists and human rights defenders; conduct impartial, effective and thorough investigations; publish the results of these investigations and ensure that such violations do not remain unpunished (Switzerland);**

120.144. **Respect and protect the rights of human rights defenders and journalist to undertake their legitimate work without fear of criminal prosecutions or other pressure (Bulgaria);**

120.145. **Take steps to strengthen the rule of law and independence of the judiciary by promptly and thoroughly investigating all threats and incidents of violence against government opposition members and their supporters (Canada);**

120.146. **Strengthen respect for and protection of the right of journalists and human rights defenders to exercise their activities without harassment (Chile);**

120.147. **Fully and thoroughly investigate and prosecute incidents and violence against human rights defenders, in particular journalists (Estonia);**

120.148. **Respect and protect the right of human rights defenders and journalists to undertake their legitimate work without the fear of harassment, intimidation or reprisals (Finland);**

120.149. **Improve the investigation of cases of violence against human rights defenders and journalists and publicly acknowledge the importance of human rights defenders in achieving a pluralistic and democratic society (Lithuania);**

120.150. **Conduct thorough and effective investigations into attacks on journalists and human rights defenders, in order to enable full enjoyment of the rights, as provided for under ICCPR and under the Constitution (Poland);**

120.151. **Ensure that the right to hold peaceful, open and public demonstrations is freely available to all individuals without undue restrictions (Ireland);**

120.152. **Review the latest proposed or adopted amendments regarding the NGO and media laws and the 2010 amendments to the Civil and Penal Codes in order to ensure that Armenian legislation is in line with the best practices and international standards in the area of freedom of expression and association (Belgium);**

120.153. **Ensure full implementation of all election monitoring report recommendations of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

120.154. **Implement the recommendations of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe regarding the reform of the electoral law (France);**

120.155. **Take concrete measures for the improvement of the electoral process, including enhancing the transparency of voters' lists and preventing election violence and intimidation and creating an environment for free election campaigning (Czech Republic);**

120.156. **Make concrete efforts to increase the representation of women in public decision-making processes (Norway);**

120.157. **Strengthen administrative measures to ensure the participation of a large number of women in political life (Angola);**

120.158. **Continue work aimed at increasing the participation of women in the political life of the country (Belarus);**

120.159. **Adopt specific legislation to ensure equal opportunities for women in the labour market (Slovenia);**

120.160. **Follow up and reinforce actions aimed at improving the living conditions of the population and the situation of migrants (Mauritania);**

120.161. **Continue strengthening the Plan of Action of 2014 with a view to ensuring the full enjoyment of the right to health, work and adequate standard of living (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

120.162. **Step up efforts to guarantee access to medical care for the rural population (Equatorial Guinea);**

120.163. **Develop a programme on food security with a view to the realization of the universal human right to food (Brazil);**

120.164. **Continue to implement the International Health Regulations and maintain its commitment to guarantee access for the rural population to medical care and services (Cuba);**

120.165. **Continue to strengthen the construction of the health care system and ensure timely access to health services for the rural population (China);**

120.166. **Take measures to ensure access to education, including higher education, for children from national minorities and other vulnerable groups such as refugees and asylum seekers (Austria);**

120.167. **Continue to study in depth the steps for the adoption of the legal framework necessary for the application of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

120.168. **Take measures to expand access for persons with disabilities, in particular, with regard to transportation and physical access to educational institutions (Republic of Korea);**

120.169. **Continue its efforts in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities by, inter alia, effectively implementing its law on employment, adopting the law on protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and their social inclusion in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and ensuring inclusive education for children with special needs (Thailand);**

120.170. **Continue its positive measures in further promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, including by ensuring effective implementation of its Law on Employment as well as providing the necessary vocational training to them (Malaysia);**

120.171. **Take appropriate legal and administrative measures to ensure equal opportunities to access decent work for people with disabilities (Argentina);**

120.172. **Continue to strengthen and promote the rights of national minorities (Lebanon);**

120.173. **Continue to strengthen and protect the rights of minorities (Djibouti);**

120.174. **Continue reinforcing advanced programmes in the field of education, culture and social assistance in favour of national minorities and other vulnerable sectors of the population in the fight against poverty and social inequality (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

120.175. **Further improve conditions for the protection of the rights of national minorities (Cyprus);**

120.176. **Further improve conditions for the protection of the rights of national minorities (Kazakhstan);**

120.177. **Take further steps for the protection of national minorities (Greece);**

120.178. **Continue initiatives undertaken to promote education and culture of national minorities (Equatorial Guinea);**

120.179. **Strengthen training programmes for State officials in the field of minority rights (Algeria).**

121. **The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Armenia and would thus be noted:**

121.1. **Adopt comprehensive legislation on discrimination (Azerbaijan);**

121.2. **Closely monitor legal practice in relation to incitement to racial discrimination and prosecute perpetrators (Azerbaijan);**

121.3. **Prevent the use of torture and ill-treatment on suspects in police custody and prosecute those responsible (Azerbaijan);**

121.4. **Investigate cases of violence against children in closed institutions and prosecute perpetrators (Azerbaijan);**

121.5. **Establish mechanisms to identify children among asylum seekers and refugees involved in armed conflicts (Azerbaijan);**

121.6. **Criminalize the recruitment of children under the age of 18 years into armed forces (Azerbaijan);**

121.7. **Ensure accountability within government structures (Azerbaijan);**

121.8. **Eradicate all limitations and restrictions on freedom of religion, including the revision of the school curriculum to reflect the freedom of religion of all children (Azerbaijan);**

121.9. **Ensure the protection of the rights of national minorities (Azerbaijan);**

121.10. **Ensure the full protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, to peaceful assembly and to freedom of association (Azerbaijan).**

122. **Armenia did not support the recommendations in paragraph 121 because it considers that the country that has submitted them: (a) has repeatedly rejected any cooperation with Armenia within the framework of the UPR, in particular as set out in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and (b) is conducting apparent propaganda of war and hatred against the Armenians at the level of highest authorities of the country, involving all segments of the population.**

123. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

[English only]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Armenia was headed by Mr. Ashot Hovakimian, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Suren Krmoyan, Deputy Minister of Justice;
- Ms. Jemma Baghdassaryan, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Issues;
- Ms. Hasmik Tolmajian, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva;
- Mr. Emil Babayan, Deputy Prosecutor General;
- Mr. Gagik Yeganyan, Head of the State Migration Service, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations;
- Mr. Vahram Kazhoyan, Director of International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Karine Saribekyan, Head of Mother and Child Health Care Department, Ministry of Health;
- Mr. Robert Stepanyan, Head of Department on Development Programmes and Monitoring of the Ministry of Education;
- Ms. Nelli Manandyan, Deputy Head of Legal Department, Police of the Republic of Armenia;
- Mr. Armen Mkrtchyan, Member of National Commission on Television and Radio;
- Ms. Karine Soudjian, Head of Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. George Kocharian, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva;
- Mr. Artur Grigoryan, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva;
- Ms. Lilia Petrosyan, Legal Advisor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations Office at Geneva.